

Success Story

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: August 9, 2005 Contact: Susan Baxter (205) 290-7101 ext 230 Release Number: PR AL 05-31 Internet Address: http://www.sba.gov/al/

8(a) Firm Supported the Military in Iraq and Continues to Be One of the Fastest Growing Hispanic Businesses in the United States

BIRMINGHAM – If as a business owner, you had the opportunity to improve living conditions for our soldiers and allow the military to return key infrastructure sites to the new government, it would be a tremendous step for you.

Eloy Torrez, President of SEI Group, Inc. got just that opportunity. Earlier in the year, SEI Group completed a contract which amounted to nearly \$9,000,000 with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a Power Plant at Camp Falcon, Baghdad, Iraq. SEI Group is very proud of this accomplishment. Mr. Torrez states, "We feel this is a great success not only for us, but for the Army and all of the other small, disadvantaged businesses that support our Nation."

SEI Group, Inc. has been in business since 1996. Mr. Torrez is a registered professional engineer. In 1997, SEI was approved as a Small Business Administration (SBA) 8(a) certified company. The company has received numerous contracts as a result of 8(a) due to their dedication, hard work and commitment to projects. The have also receive assistance through one of SBA's resources, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The SBDCs notify small businesses about solicitations through the Center's Softshare Program.

In 2002, SEI received the SBA Administrator's Award for Excellence. The Company was nominated by the U. S. Corps of Engineers as a result of the superb service provided to their Agency. SEI does an exceptional job and has no problem receiving references from agencies with which they do business.

SEI has an outstanding track record of developing teams adept at meeting the business needs of clients in the federal, public and private sectors. Customer-focused teams work with clients to define objectives, frame issues and develop and implement winning solutions. The company continues to grow both in number of employees and gross sales and in 2002 was ranked as the 2nd fastest growing Hispanic business in the United States.

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For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at $\underline{www.sba.gov}$.